

Minutes of April 9, 2009 Meeting

The meeting convened at 2:04 p.m. in room 817, Cathedral of Learning.

UPBC members present were: John Baker, Diana Browning, Jerome Cochran, N. John Cooper, David DeJong, Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, William Harbert, Alan Lesgold, James Maher, Richard Pratt, Arthur Ramicone, Sharon Smith, and Kathleen Vergona. Also present were: Beverly Ann Gaddy, Charlie McLaughlin, Albert Novak, Benoni Outerbridge, Robert Pack, and Gwen Watkins.

UPBC members not present were: Richard Colwell, Judith Erlen, Carol Hodgkiss, Arthur Levine, Jeffrey Masnick, Paul Munro, Darius Ravangard, Michael Stuckart, Paul Supowitz, Kathy Tosh, Richard Ulsh, and Stephen Wisniewski.

Report of the Chair

Maher deferred his report until the discussion of the budget.

Discussion of the Governor's Proposed FY 2010 Commonwealth Budget

McLaughlin presented information about the Governor's Proposed Commonwealth Budget for FY 2010. First, to provide some context, we were approved for \$189 million for FY 2009. When the economy started to decline, the University was asked to make two cuts that totaled 6%, or \$11 million. For FY 2010, the Governor's proposed budget, issued in February, had the University funded at that reduced level. Since then, the Federal Government Stimulus Package has passed, and it stipulates that the funding of Higher Education must be restored. The Governor has agreed to fund the University at \$189 million for FY 2010. Discussion is underway as to whether funding should also be restored to FY 2009. Looking ahead, the Federal Government money that supports the restored funding will only be for two years.

Maher said that with regards to the Provost Area units, the situation is better than when we last met. The 6% cut from FY 2009 has been restored in the proposed FY 2010 budget thanks to the federal stimulus funding. On the other hand, the state funding level to which we have been restored is the level that supports the current budget, and there are a number of significant increases that we must plan to fund for the coming year. In addition, the endowment is down substantially.

Update from the Parameters Subcommittee

Cooper reported on the work of the Parameters Subcommittee. The numbers on which to base the FY 2010 budget are firming up. There are significant projected increases in costs, particularly in Health Care and Financial Aid, but also in a number of other areas that, together, add up to a rather large overall increase. There is also projected a large decrease in revenue, largely in the area of interest income. A tuition increase for the Pittsburgh Campus is proposed. A small overall reduction in the budget is also proposed. The unusual feature of this projected budget is that a 0% tuition increase is proposed for the regional campuses. To that end, the Parameters Subcommittee submitted the following motion:

“The UPBC recommends to the Chancellor that there be no tuition increase at the regional campuses for FY2010.”

The motion was seconded, and after further discussion was passed unanimously.

University Planning and
Budgeting Committee

Matters Arising

There was a motion from the floor to accept the Minutes from the February 19, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded. It was passed unanimously.

The next UPBC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2009, 2:00 – 4:00 in room 817 Cathedral of Learning.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.